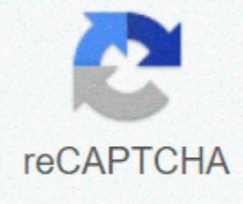




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## Norwottuck rail trail belchertown

Norwottuck Branch Rail TrailScout east of the western path HeadLength11 mi (18 km)LocationNorthampton, Massachusetts to Belchertown, MassachusettsEstablished1992 (1992)DesignationMassachusetts state parkTrailheads42°19′45N 72°37′56W﻿ / ﻿42.32912°N 72.63227°W﻿ / 42.32912; -72.63227 to 42°19′46N 72°27′48W﻿ / 42.32947°N 72.46342°W﻿ / 42.32947; -72.46342Use, cycling, roller blading, cross-country skiingHiking detailsTrail difficultyEasySeason Year-roundSightsBeaver pond near the east end with various birds and other fauna (Amherst College Wildlife Sanctuary),[1] former railway bridgeThe right roadFormer railway lineMaintained byPartment of Conservation and RecreationWebsiteNorwottuck Rail Trail NorthamptonBelchertown Trail location in Massachusetts Norwottuck Branch Rail Trail, Norwottuck's former railway route is an 18km combination of bicycles and pedestrians paved from Northampton, Massachusetts Hadley and Amherst to Belchertown, Massachusetts. It opened in 1992 and is now part of the longer Mass Central Rail Trail. History The cog under which the route operated was opened in 1887 under the supervision of hadley's historical commission, which believed that the name corresponded to the local Native American tribe, Norwottucks. It was also a term for the whole region. [2] Use cyclists, roller skaters and hikers using this path. There's both recreational and commuter traffic. Attractions include the Norwottuck Rail Route across the Connecticut River. The beaver near the eastern end of the route hosts several different birds, including a large blue heron and various lollipops, as well as ducks, turtles and many other animals. Extension The path has been extended eastwards about 1.5 miles away and currently ends on Warren Wright Road south of North Road and north of Wilson Road. In 2007, an extension was opened from Damon Road to Woodmont Road in Northampton. The path ends near Northampton Bikeway, which runs from across King Street to Florence and Look Park. Railway construction with a path project Northampton city centre and Easthampton (link to the Manhan rail route) are in the planning stages, as is the tunnel under the active rail line linked to the Northampton Bikeway. The underpass linking Northampton Bikeway to Northampton Bikeway from Northampton city centre was expected to come up for offer in 2015 and was expected to be completed in 2016. Trail users had been frustrated by the missing connection for years. [3] Bids for the project were decided in March 2016. [4] The Massachusetts Department of Transportation selected the Northern Construction Service for the \$4.4 million tunnel, which is expected to be completed in October 2017. [5] The tunnel was opened in early November 2017. Other possible connections are being considered, such as a connection to the Canalside Rail Trail. A movement is underway[6] to create a 104-mile (167-kilometer) cycle path west of Boston that would include the Norwottuck rail route as part of its length. Reconstruction The original path had deteriorated over time. One aspect of the problem is that the original pavement was an attempt to be green and was incorporated into crushed used glass bottles as part of its aggregate. This material had slowly appeared over time, causing punctured tires and other problems. [7] In response to the condition of the hole, the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation's Highway Division started the Norwottuck Branch Rail Trail renovation project. The specific features of the reconstruction plan included widening the hole from the original 2.4 metres to 3.0 metres to the impact of busy traffic, especially at weekends, as enlargement reduces the impact of traffic like any other road. After several years of discussion, the \$4 million reconstruction project started in August 2013; [8] it was completed in June 2015. [9] See also Norwottuck Rail Trail Bridge Central Massachusetts Railroad References ^ Wildlife Sanctuary: Recreation: Trails & Points of Interest. Amherst University. Retrieved 10 April 2019. ^ b Norwottuck railway route. Federal Government of Massachusetts. 2014. Retrieved 23 October 2014. ^ Contrada, Fred (March 16, 2015). Next up: An underpass that completes the Northampton section of the line. MassLive, what are you? Retrieved March 16, 2015. ^ ^ Levenson, Amanda. Northampton underpass underway on King Street. The Daily Hampshire Gazette. Retrieved October 7, 2017. ^ Mass Central Rail-Trail ^ Flynn, Jack (May 10, 2008). The bike path is decaying. Republican. MassLive LLC. Archived from the original on 20 May 2011. Retrieved 15 May 2008. ^ Crowley, Dan (July 24, 2013). The reconstruction of the Norwottuck railway route in Hadley begins, closing partitions. The Daily Hampshire Gazette. Northampton, Ma. Archived from the original on 13 March 2019. Retrieved 21 August 2013. ^ MCRT - Norwottuck Branch Rail Trail renovation project. Mass.gov energy and environmental issues. Federal Government of Massachusetts. Archived from the original on March 4, 2016. Retrieved July 29, 2015. External Links KML File (Edit • Help) Model: Attached KML / Norwottuck Branch Rail TrailKML on Wikidata Norwottuck Rail Trail Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Norwottuck Rail Trail Map Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation Friends of Northampton Trails and Greenways Northampton Bike Underpass Design Plans Retrieved Network excellent, paved bike trails woven throughout pioneer valley, and runners are among the numerous trail users who take to these recreational trails all year round. The main commuter routes in the Five College area form three cycle paths, all interconnected. Jump anywhere (or paste them all) out and behind the desired length. These paths are ploughed in winter, so although they are sometimes icy, they make for proper off-season running. Norwottuck Rail Trail: The Norwottuck Rail Trail stretches 10.8 miles along the former Boston-Maine Railroad, connecting Northampton, Hadley, Amherst and Belchertown. The quietest and most scetic part of the route is about a 3.1-mile section at the eastern end of the route from the Fort River base point to the Warren Wright Road endpoint. This section cuts mainly through protected ground with stunning views of Holyoke Mountain from the River Fort, the Brickyard Reserve and Lawrence Swamp. There are also several dirty monorail side paths to explore. Another notable part of the path is the extreme western end, which crosses the Connecticut River on a wooden-bagd former railroad bridge. From here to the east, the path is bounded by a slightly congested commercial area along Route 9, but it also cuts through nice farmland. Norwottuck Trail Map Manhan Rail Trail: When the Norwottuck Rail Route crosses the Connecticut River, it soon becomes the Manhan Rail Route, passing through downtown Northampton, crossing I-91 and continuing south to Easthampton, where it roughly follows the Manhan River downtown. It's about 12 kilometres one way, but the funniest part (in our humble opinion!) is the area around Lower Mill Pond in Easthampton with its historic mill buildings and manicured greenery. Manhan Bikeway Trail Map Northampton Bikeway: Between the Norwottuck and Manhan trails, the third cycle path runs across Northampton from east to west and connects the central area with the Florence neighbourhood. In from King Street (Route 5) the path continues west behind forested residential areas to the heart of Florence, where it cuts through the beautiful plot of Look Park. From here, the path bends north to Leeds and follows a nice stretch of mill river (including dammed falls) upstream almost to Haydenville.Total is an 8.7km long Northampton Bikeway Trail Map Norwottuck Rail Trail is a 10.1-mile heavily traffic-facing dot-to-point path located near Northampton, Massachusetts, which has a river and is good for all skill levels. The trail is mainly used for walking, running and road cycling and is available all year round. Dogs can also use this path, but they must be kept on a leash. Length16.1 kmEtäkkönen get65 mRoute typePoint shows Dogs on a pulley friendlyKid friendlystroller friendlyRoad cyclingWalkingRunningForestPavedRails trailsRiverWildflowersWildlifeA nice paved shaded multipurpose rail overlooking the Connecticut River. Accessibility: The surface of the path is paved asphalt and typically at least 180 cm wide. The grade is mostly gentle (all estimated below 5%) so most wheelchair and strod users are likely to be able to take this path. Michael LGreat walks with many people on the path that follows the COVID guidelines. Watch Michael's RecordingView Ying-Ying's RecordingDrew SalutiView Drew's recordingJohn CabanDecided let this rail car experiment. it was a very easy rail route. During the autumn, the leaves made it look particularly special. Make sure you go into warmer weather, unlike me, it was 32 degrees. Definitely go back. See John's RecordingPaul StrobelView Paul's RecordingWilma LewisView Wilman RecordingView Ridge's RecordingAlvah StoneNice asphalt-based path, which has been around for many years. I cycled it from Belchertown to Amherst last year. Today (September 17, 2020) from Walgreen's, starting point noho, Amherst and back. The small height changes, so not so bad. There were quite a few cyclists and walkers/runners on the Trail on Thursday afternoon. This will get more use on the weekend, so keep that in mind if you keep going. Wilma LewisView Wilman RecordingMark WhiteView Mark's RecordingView Chris's RecordingVery nice smooth bike route. Quite shady and flat. He's coming back! View Laura's Recordingmadelyn schefersT this is an awesome walking or bike ride. It has a beautiful view of the Connecticut River as well as a peaceful setting. Be careful if it is warmer and sunny outside, not much shade until you are about 3km away. View madelyn's RecordingI has ridden a full 30 miles (out & back) 3 times in the last two months and it's easily my favourite trip. Wide, flat and well marked, with lots of areas to stop and enjoy Great views of the mountains, farms and wetlands. Several restaurants on or near the path, as well as outdoor seating. The closer it is to Northampton, the busier it is, but it is expected in a nice spring and summer H BBusy but very pleasant and scenily. There are beautiful views of the middle and the river. Diana TMark White What a great path. Busy in places but Northampton is worth the trip. Lots of restaurants and bars along the path. And very walkable there. Nick FredsallJulie DubuqueView Julien RecordingBeautiful Trail. Nice coated surface. Lots of great views and lots of places to stop and get a bite to eat. Cycle on it all the time. Beautiful, well maintained bike path and path that takes you to a point from Amherst to Northampton through forest and farmland. This path was great. I rode from Northampton (Damon Road trailhead) to amherst city centre - about 14 miles round trip. (The path connects to a road bike lane that takes you the last 1/3 mile to a city where there were great places to eat dinner.) lots of friendly people on the trail. I really enjoyed a mile of tuss and signage at distances. The real stunner is an old railroad bridge across the Connecticut River! :) I'm looking forward to coming back. We visit Amherst so I was looking for an unavoidable path to run and found a lot of well-marked experimnts. Most were flat and wide, allowing the runner to get up to speed, although some were deer trails, most of which were 6-8feet wide. I ran the blue, red/white path to the red. I also ran along a linear path that reminded me of an old carriageway, it was quite wide and flat on a gentle slope leading to the pond, it wasn't marketed separately and it was about 1 mile. Overall, I had a good experience. Great path! There are two places to stop and get food. There is an old video game hall at one of the food stops. There are also trails along the trails of Hadley Mall, Umass, Amherst College; And passing through Northampton, Hadley, Amherst and Belchertown.It's very nice to remind me to walk the Path of the Swiss Miracle. Excellent scenery and nice not to worry about cars. The start of Belchertown is a bit rough on road bikes, but the new pavement starting in Amherst is beautiful. I haven't gone any further than Northampton yet, but it's going to happen very soon. Norwottuck Railway is full of awesome people! You can start at Belchertown and ride non-stop until Easthampton. Driving is quite easy, the only hill is on West Street in Amherst (Rt. 116). The path passes through wetlands, moths, sweeping fields, stunning farmland. Many points have excellent views. The final plan is to include the Norwottuck Railroad on the Massachusetts Central Rail Route, which eventually stretches all the way to Boston. Trail is under construction until the end of 2014. A different section closed, including the bridge over the River CT. 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